

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A nutritional enteral composition intended for favoring the growth and maturation of non-mature gastro-intestinal tracts of young mammals comprising:

a mixture of whey dietary protein hydrolysates having a degree of hydrolysis in a range of from about 10% to less than 50% by weight, the whey dietary protein hydrolysates in the form of a mixture of different size peptides and free amino acids, the free amino acids being present in an amount of up to about 20% (each calculated as nitrogen x 6.25); and

intact proteins comprising bioactive peptides.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the whey dietary protein hydrolysates contain at least about 5% (by weight, of the total protein content calculated as nitrogen x 6.25) of hydrolysate having a degree of hydrolysis of about 40% and at least about 5% of hydrolysates having lesser degree of hydrolysis.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the intact proteins are present in an amount of at least about 5% by weight of the total protein content.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the intact proteins are selected from the group consisting of milk proteins, whey proteins, caseins and bioactive proteins, such as TGF- β .

Claim 5 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 1 wherein bioactive peptides represent at least about 0.1 to about 4 ng/mg total protein.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 1 which contains a source of protein providing 5 to 30% of the total caloric content, a source of

carbohydrates, which provides 40 to 80% of the total caloric content, a source of lipids, which provides 5 to 55% of the total caloric content, and minerals and vitamins to meet daily requirements.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method of preparing a nutritional enteral composition intended for favoring the growth and maturation of non-mature gastro-intestinal tracts of young mammals comprising the step of using as a protein source a mixture of whey dietary protein hydrolysates having a degree of hydrolysis in a range of from about 10% to less than 50% by weight, the whey dietary protein hydrolysates in the form of a mixture of different size peptides and free amino acids, the free amino acids being present in an amount of up to about 20% (each calculated as nitrogen x 6.25) and intact proteins that are at least partially in the form of bioactive peptides.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method according to claim 7 wherein the whey dietary protein hydrolysates comprise at least 5% (by weight, of the total protein content calculated as nitrogen x 6.25) of hydrolysate having a degree of hydrolysis of about 40% and at least 5% of hydrolysates having a lesser degree of hydrolysis.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 wherein the intact proteins are present in an amount of at least about 5% of the total protein content.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 wherein the intact proteins are selected from the group consisting of milk proteins, whey proteins, caseins and bioactive peptides such as TGF- β .

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 wherein bioactive peptides represent about 0.1 to about 4 ng/mg total protein.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 including the step of preparing the nutritional composition so that it contains a source of protein providing 5 to 30% of the total caloric content, a source of carbohydrates which provides 40 to 80% of the total caloric content, a source of lipids which provides 5 to 55% of the total caloric content, minerals and vitamins to meet daily requirements.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method for providing nutrition to young mammals having non-mature gastrointestinal tracts, comprising the step of administering a composition which contains as a protein source a mixture of whey dietary protein hydrolysates having a degree of hydrolysis in a range of from about 10% to less than 50% by weight, the whey dietary protein hydrolysates in the form of a mixture of different size peptides and free amino acids, the free amino acids being present in an amount of up to about 20% (each calculated as nitrogen x 6.25) and intact proteins that are at least partly in the form of bioactive peptides.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method according to claim 13 wherein the whey dietary protein hydrolysates contain at least about 5% (by weight, of the total protein content calculated as nitrogen x 6.25) of hydrolysate having a degree of hydrolysis of about 40 and at least about 5% of hydrolysates having a lesser degree of hydrolysis.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 13 wherein the intact proteins are present in an amount of at least about 5% by weight of the total protein content.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method according to claim 13 wherein the intact proteins are selected from the group consisting of milk proteins, whey proteins, caseins and bioactive peptides such as TGF- β .

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to claim 13 wherein the bioactive peptides represent at least about 0.1 to about 4ng/mg total protein.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14 wherein the composition comprises a source of protein providing 5 to 30% of the total caloric content, a source of carbohydrates which provides 40 to 80% of the total caloric content, a source of lipids which provides 5 to 55% of the total caloric content and minerals and vitamins to meet daily requirements.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method for promoting the growth and maturation of non-mature gastrointestinal tracts of young mammals, comprising the steps of administering a

composition which contains as a protein source a mixture of whey dietary protein hydrolysates having a degree of hydrolysis in a range of from about 10% to less than 50% by weight, the whey dietary hydrolysates in the form of a mixture of different size peptides and free amino acids, the free amino acids being present in an amount of up to about 20% (each calculated as nitrogen x 6.25) and intact proteins that are at least partly in the form of bioactive peptides.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method according to claim 19 wherein the whey dietary protein hydrolysates contain at least about 5% (by weight, of the total protein content calculated as Nitrogen x 6.25) of hydrolysate having a degree of hydrolysis of about 40 and at least about 5% of hydrolysates having a lesser degree of hydrolysis.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method according to claim 19 wherein the intact proteins are present in an amount of at least about 5% by weight of the total protein content.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method according to claim 19 wherein the intact proteins are selected from the groups consisting of milk proteins, whey proteins, caseins and bioactive peptides such as TGF- β .

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method according to claim 19 wherein bioactive peptides represent at least about 0.1 to about 4ng/mg total protein.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method according to claim 19 wherein the composition contains a source of protein providing 5 to 30% of the total caloric content, a source of carbohydrates which provides 40 to 80% of the total caloric content, a source of lipids which provides 5 to 55% of the total caloric content. and minerals and vitamins to meet daily requirements.